

of ascertaining what are the prominent symptoms of inflammation of the jejunum, because, in almost every case in which jejunitis has been discovered, there has been also extensive disease of the rest of the small intestine. We have cases of simple gastritis; there have been also cases of distinct disease of the duodenum. We may have disease in the lower third of the ileum, unaccompanied by an affection of any other part of the tube. The same thing may occur in the case of the cæcum, colon, or rectum, but it seldom or never occurs so far as the jejunum is concerned.—*Ibid.*

25. *On Inflammation of the Ileum.* By WILLIAM STOKES, M. D.—Inflammation of the ileum is a most important affection, for two reasons; first, in consequence of its extraordinary frequency, and, in the next place, of its insidious latency, the disease generally requiring a considerable degree of tact and experience on the part of the practitioner to make out its diagnosis with certainty. In fever, it is the most frequent of all the forms of intestinal inflammation; and hence Broussais, finding inflammation of the ileum of such constant occurrence in fever, concluded that fever was only symptomatic of intestinal inflammation. Further researches have shown that he was mistaken, and that the inflammation of the digestive tube is, in many cases, secondary; but it is still a circumstance of almost constant occurrence, and in many cases of fever is the cause of death. Now, the portions of the intestinal tube most commonly affected in fever are, the stomach and lower part of the ileum, and the frequent occurrence of this in fever is very remarkable. There are few cases of typhus without it. In some cases of typhus you will, on examination after death, be astonished to find extensive disease of the intestinal canal, which, during life, had not attracted any particular notice, and this you will most commonly find in the lower part of the ileum. So common is it, that Louis says that ileitis is the grand anatomical feature of typhus fever; that is, had he been obliged to pitch on the lesion of some particular organ as giving a character to typhus, he would say that it was ileitis. There are other diseases, too, in which inflammation of the ileum forms the principal complication. In the diseases of children, which go by the names of worm fever, remittent fever, and bilious fever, I believe that ileitis is generally the first affection, and that the fevers are only symptomatic of it. It constantly occurs at some period or other of tabes mesenterica; and I believe, that in many cases it precedes the affection of the mesenteric glands. It is exceedingly common in phthisis. In every case of phthisis, where diarrhœa has lasted for some time, the probability is, that there is ulceration in the cæcum, colon, and lower part of the ileum.

Now, what is the nature of this ileitis? This preparation, (*handing one for inspection,*) which I beg of you to hand round, will furnish a very good illustration of the disease. Here is a portion of the intestine exhibiting various distinct ulcerations of different sizes, occupying the situation of the mucous glands. I do not mean to say, that the character of the disease consists in this distinct ulceration; it is an essential disease of the mucous membrane, and of its glands, which exist in great numbers on the surface of the lower third of the ileum, and are called *solitary* and *aggregate*. These glands frequently take on the inflammatory condition, become softened, run into ulceration, and produce extraordinary sympathetic irritation of the whole system. There has been lately a great deal of discussion with respect to the question—Whether disease begins in the glands or in the mucous membrane, and whether we can separate disease of the glands from disease of the mucous membrane. This has been carried to a great extent; and a change has been attempted to be made in the name of the disease, it being entitled *dothin-enteritis* by those who say that the inflammation commences in the glands. But this I think is a mere refinement, and is carrying the thing too far. It is next to impossible for the glands to be affected without involving the mucous membrane, or for the mucous membrane to be affected without an extension of the disease to the glands. We sometimes, however, see the mucous membrane diseased without the glands being

apparently engaged; but I think the glands are never engaged without the co-existence of disease in the mucous membrane. In this preparation you see the mucous membrane is just giving way; and here is an actual slough, where the mucous and submucous tunics have yielded to the inflammation. In the lower portion of the ileum we meet with an infinite variety in the size and number of the ulcerations: in some they are very close and numerous, in others there are only two or three detached ones; in some, the whole circle of the intestine is destroyed, and the ulcer is nearly as broad as the palm of the hand. It is interesting to consider, with respect to the pathology of the respiratory and digestive systems, how it comes, that ulceration of the mucous membrane is so much more common in the digestive apparatus than in the respiratory. For one ulceration of the bronchial mucous membrane from acute disease, you will have one hundred of the gastro-intestinal. For this peculiarity we cannot clearly account; but there seems to be more development in the digestive than in the respiratory system, and that this over-development produces a tendency to disease. This, perhaps, is an approximation to an explanation of the facts; and to this may be added, that the mucous membrane of the intestines is exposed to the influence of a much greater variety of agents. It is difficult to give an accurate idea of the symptoms of ileitis, as we can only arrive at a knowledge of it by negative evidence, or, as the French term it, "*par voie d'exclusion*."

In a case of gastritis and of inflammation in the upper part of the digestive tube, the most prominent symptoms are thirst and vomiting. In this affection, too, there is thirst, but it is by no means so urgent as in the former cases, and there is generally no vomiting. In a case of acute gastritis there is always a desire for cold drinks. In this disease there is also a desire for fluids, but the patient prefers them warm. Here you perceive two symptoms, connected with the predominance of disease in the upper part of the digestive tube, are absent—vomiting and the desire for cold drinks.

Now, you are aware, that, in a case of inflammation of the colon and rectum, the most prominent symptoms are diarrhœa, tenesmus, and the passing of a quantity of morbid secretions. These symptoms, in a case of ileitis, are either wanting, or they are so slight as to excite but very little notice. If then, in a case of intestinal disease, we abstract the characteristic symptoms of disease in the upper and lower part of the digestive tube from the phenomena of the existing disease; if we find that it presents symptoms which do not properly belong to either the stomach, duodenum, colon, or rectum; we conclude that it must depend on a lesion of the remaining part of the canal, and we are, in this way, led to the diagnosis of ileitis. Let us enumerate the symptoms of an ileitis. In the first place, thirst, without a preference for cold drinks; in the next, absence of vomiting; again, in the early period of the disease, there is generally a tympanitic state of the belly, and the patient seldom complains of pain even in fatal cases. This is a point of extreme importance. There is, however, most commonly a degree of tenderness over the ileum, which you will be able to detect by an accurate examination, and this tenderness presents a remarkable difference from the tenderness of gastritis, both in degree and situation. It is very seldom so exquisite as in a case of gastritis, the patient can bear a considerable degree of pressure, and the tenderness, in place of being towards the epigastrium, is situated between the umbilicus and the crest of the ileum on the right side; here pressure excites pain. The tongue in this affection is generally of a dirty-white, pointed, and red along the edges and tip; the pulse is quick and small, and the face is contracted. As to the nature of the discharges from the bowels they are exceedingly various; there has been as yet no diagnosis founded on their appearance, and in some fatal cases they have been observed to retain an almost perfectly healthy appearance throughout. What would the gentlemen, who draw their diagnosis from chamber pots, say in such cases? I have seen perfectly natural stools in cases, which immediately after have terminated fatally, and where, on examination after death, there was a vast extent of ulceration in the ileum. In addition to the symptoms just recited, the patient most

commonly has *fever*, and this presents itself under various forms, frequently assuming the type of a simple continued fever; hence, in a great many cases, *the patient is supposed to labour under merely simple continued fever, and the existence of extensive inflammation of the ileum is entirely overlooked.* In other instances, there is more or less prostration, which increases with the progress of the disease, and the fever frequently receives the appellation of typhoid. Under these circumstances, the patient often gets bark and wine, every means is taken to support his strength and remove the typhoid condition of the system, the inflammation of the intestine is exasperated by neglect and mal-treatment, the patient dies, and, on dissection, the ileum presents an enormous sheet of ulcerations.

In cases of this kind, where the diagnosis depends as much on negative as on positive circumstances, it is of importance to have a direct sign, by which we may be able to ascertain with some degree of certainty the existence of a suspected enteric inflammation, and I think I have discovered one, which I believe has not been as yet noticed; this is increased pulsation of the abdominal vessels. In many cases of acute inflammation of the brain, the increased pulsation of the carotids has been frequently remarked, and every one sees that, under such circumstances, there is an undue excitement of these vessels, or, in other words, that there is a want of proportion between the action of the carotids and that of the arteries of the extremities. If your finger be attacked by paronychia the same phenomenon is observed, the artery leading to the inflamed finger beats much stronger than the artery of the corresponding one on the opposite side. From these circumstances I was led to conclude that, in cases of acute inflammation of the digestive tube, there would be increased pulsation of the abdominal aorta; and, on following up the investigation, by examining several persons who had distinct and well-marked intestinal inflammation, I found that my conclusions were well-grounded. In such cases, I found not only a remarkable throbbing of the abdominal aorta, but I also discovered that this throbbing was prolonged to the femoral arteries, and that, on the other hand, there was little or no corresponding excitement in the arteries of the upper extremities.

In inflammation of the ileum the patient generally lies on his back, and avoids motion as much as he possibly can, his skin is dry and harsh; he is feverish; he has thirst, but little desire for cold drinks; he scarcely ever vomits; his alvine dejections are sometimes thin and purgative, sometimes figured and natural. But there is one circumstance which is of considerable importance in pointing out the amount of disease, even in cases where patients have considerable diarrhœa, and this is, that the diarrhœa is not sufficient to account for the extraordinary prostration. There must be some cause for the great reduction of vital power besides the mere diarrhœa, and I must state to you that there are few diseases which bring on such rapid prostration as inflammation of this portion of the digestive tube. In the advanced stage of this disease, the patients have cold skin, subsultus tendinum, petechiæ, involuntary discharge of urine and fæces, low delirium, coma, gangrenous ulcerations of the back, sinking of the powers of life, effusions into the head and chest, in fact all the symptoms which characterize the last stage of typhus. Generally speaking, the disease is more or less prolonged, and the patients die of exhaustion, but in some cases the approach of death is more sudden and formidable. Some of the ulcers pass deeply into the substance of the intestine, perforate all its coats in succession, the contents of the intestine escape into the peritoneum, and the patient is carried off by a rapid peritonitis.—*Ibid.*

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26. *Inflammation of the Ileum in Children.* By WILLIAM STOKES, M. D.—Inflammation of the ileum is very frequently met with in children, and it is most important that you should be aware of the extreme frequency, as well as the symptoms of this disease, in those little creatures. There is one fact in pathology which seems not to be generally acted on, that there is a class of disease. No. XXIX.—November, 1834. 19